

creased and increasing receipts of the Department from the sale of tags, the last Legislature deemed it wise to reduce the tonnage charge from twenty-five to twenty cents, under which rate the receipts of the Department have been for the last fiscal year, \$55,247.70.

The decision and opinion of the Court do not prohibit the use by the Department of any incidental revenue accruing from the tax, as it expressly declares the impossibility of the Legislature fixing a tonnage charge that should exactly meet the requirements of inspection, analysis, publication, etc. From this incidental revenue, therefore, the Department has conducted other work enjoined upon it. (I respectfully refer to the decision, which is to be found in 171 U. S. Reports, p. 345.)

CATTLE QUARANTINE AND THE CATTLE INDUSTRY.

Among the duties thus committed to the Board is the control of the diseases among cattle and other domestic animals. To this end, it is given power "to quarantine infected animals, to regulate the transportation of stock in this State, or from one section of it to another; and may cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture in establishing and maintaining cattle districts, or quarantine lines, to prevent the infection of cattle from Splenic or Spanish fever." This is one of the most important duties enjoined on the Board, and one involving much responsibility. The United States Secretary of Agriculture is given plenary power to fix a Federal quarantine line extending from the Pacific to the Atlantic oceans. By this line the whole State of North Carolina is included within the quarantined district, from which cattle are forbidden to be driven, or in any manner transported, (except under regulations for immediate slaughter), to the northward across the line, and hence our cattle are deprived of the best markets.